



P19894.A08

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*[Handwritten signature]*  
*[Handwritten date: 05/12/03]*

Applicants : Takehiko SHIGEFUJI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3724

Appl. No : 09/680,293

Examiner: Charles Goodman

Filed : October 6, 2000

For : PUNCHING TOOL PROVIDED WITH TOOL IDENTIFICATION  
MEDIUM AND PUNCH PRESS PROVIDED WITH A TOOL  
IDENTIFICATION MEDIUM READER

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2003

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office dated December 31, 2002, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on March 31, 2003, and having been extended by the enclosed Request for a (one-month) extension of time, to expire on April 30, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application.

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for entering the Amendment filed on April 3, 2002 and the Supplemental Amendment filed on May 1, 2002. However, Applicants note